



# Senator Alan Lowenthal

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## Californian's Support Tougher Air Pollution Standards, Even if it Costs More

(Sacramento)— Today the Public Policy Institute of California released survey results showing that air pollution is the most important environmental issue facing the state. Additionally, the survey found that 70% of Californians support tougher air pollution standards on ships, trucks and trains that transport freight and cargo, even if this made it more costly for these businesses to operate. This belief was consistent throughout all regions of the state from the Central Valley, to the Inland Empire and consistent among political party affiliations as well.

"These results mirror what I've been hearing in my district for years", stated Senator Lowenthal (D-Long Beach). "Now that the voters are willing to make investments in improving our air quality all stakeholders and the administration need to look at these tougher standards and air quality investments."

"I have a bill moving in the legislature that would greatly reduce air pollution in our state with a reasonable investment by industry", said Lowenthal. **SB 760**, would impose a fee on containers transported through the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. The fee would go to programs that would improve air quality, strengthen port security and improve the transportation infrastructure by funding improvements to move more cargo by rail. **SB 760** is scheduled for a hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on August 17, 2005.

Doctors have linked high smog levels in Los Angeles to increased rates of asthma. Air pollution has been linked to higher rates of cancer and respiratory disease. According to a report, in 2004, there were more premature deaths in California from diesel pollution, than deaths from homicides.

Approximately 40 percent of U.S. imports and export handled by ship, travel through the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. More than 180,000 vehicles clog the I-710 everyday with approximately 35,000 daily truck trips traveling to and from the ports. Over the years, the I-710, Long Beach Freeway, has been overwhelmed with an increase in truck traffic and population growth; by the year 2020, it is expected that demand will exceed capacity on the I-710.

To find the PPIC report, you can go to [www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org)

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